

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

MARCH 15, 1998

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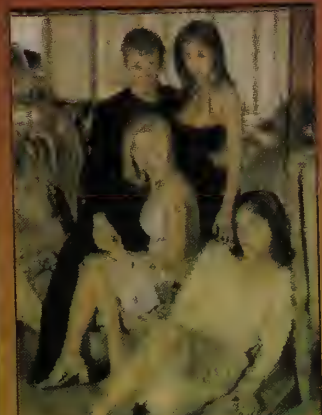
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Students can petition for final dance

Graduation formal proposed for 2000

By Julie van Donkersgoed

Students who are interested in a graduation formal can show their support by signing a petition in the DSA office.

The idea of a grad formal was originally brought to the attention of Jenn Hussey, DSA vice-president of operations, by a classmate in Hussey's second-year marketing program.

The idea was presented to Hussey in the form of a petition, which she agreed to place in the DSA office in the hope it would attract signatures.

Since being approached, Hussey has been attempting to raise awareness and interest in the idea.

"I think this is a really great idea and that's why I agreed to support it in the first place," said Hussey.

While enthusiastic about the project, Hussey said she has concerns about spin-off issues.

"This is a good idea, however there are problems with liability, mainly because of the



Kristin Murphy, DSA president, gives the "A-OK" to the idea of a graduation formal dance.
(Photo by Julie van Donkersgoed)

drinking and driving issue," she said.

Hussey also said she was not sure about attendance at the event since students might have other commitments following a graduation ceremony.

She said the college needs to ask if students

actually want this, how many people students really know outside of their programs, and whom students want to be with after the ceremony?

While Hussey said she supports the idea regardless of her concerns, however, more work needs to be done to make the project a reality.

"There is a petition, but the idea still needs to be approved and we have to actually organize this thing," she said.

Kristin Murphy, president of the Doon Student Association, said he approves of plans for a graduation formal in the year 2,000.

Murphy said while a grad formal will not occur this year, he would like to see one

in the near future.

"I would really like to see a formal — even this year," said Murphy, "but there just isn't time to pull one together at such short notice. I think it's a really great idea for next year's grads."

Adrenaline Club members reach new heights

By Lindsay Gibson

There are some people in this crazy world who love the thrill of adventure and the taste of fear that accompanies it. For Adrenaline Club members at Conestoga College, it is these offbeat sports they crave.

Club president, Sean Hunter, a second-year computer-program-analysis student, thought about starting a club for extreme sports lovers the summer prior to the September 1998 school year. His vision became a reality when he proposed the idea of the club to the Doon Student Association and they became interested.

The club, which consists of 30 registered members and is open to anyone at the college seeking adventure, took its first leap of faith in January when some of the members went skydiving.

The group drove to Arthur, where they took skydiving training from the Parachute School of Toronto.

The first day consisted of intense

training to get the adventure hungry members ready for the big jump.

The sport of skydiving is based heavily on safety, something the ready members of the adrenaline club had to learn before they were able to jump. They practised using their safety harnesses and pulling the parachute straps. They also practised and proper landing rolls which proved to be something softer and easier in practice.

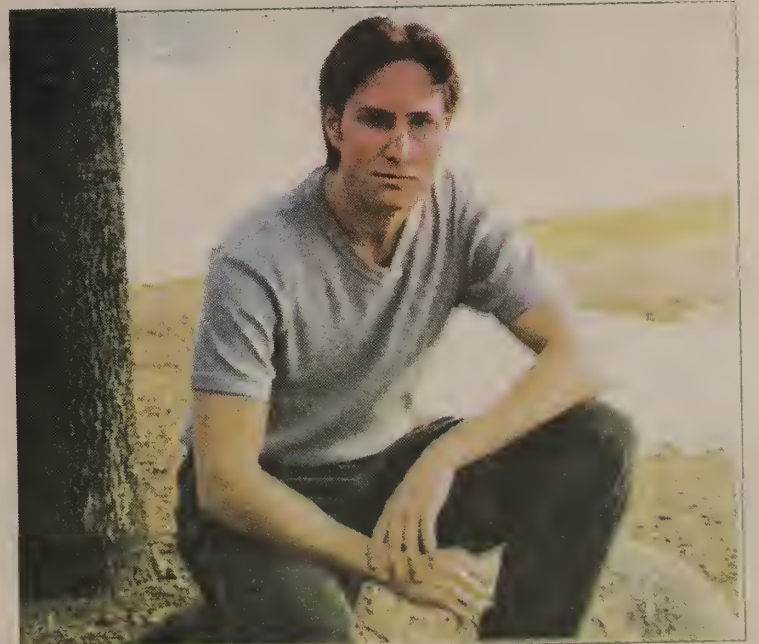
The day of the big jump was to be the following day, Saturday, but the weather wasn't quite clear enough so only a handful of the club members went back on the Sunday and actually made the jump.

Hunter said the plane took them up 2,800 ft. and it took them 2 minutes to get to the ground.

"It was a rush," said Hunter who is trying to get another activity set-up before the semester ends.

When asked why he and other members of the group crave this sort of fearful adventure, he said it is because it is something new and different.

"It's not soccer and it's not



Sean Hunter, second-year computer programming analysis student and president of Adrenaline Club.
(Photo by Lindsay)

hockey," said Hunter. "You don't have to be physically fit or sports oriented. It is a great way to try something new and meet new people at the same time."

In the future, Hunter would like

to plan trips for paintball, water rafting, mountain biking and rock climbing. There is no club membership fee but members must cover all activity costs which are subsidized by the DSA.

DSA president to run for board of governors

By Melissa Dietrich

The Doon Student Association's president will run for the student position on next year's board of governors. Kristin Murphy said he felt becoming a board

"I'm a big fan of KPIs and I want to see what they do with the information or if anything is done."

*Kristin Murphy,
president of DSA*

member was the next obvious step for him.

"I know the issues and I understand how this and other colleges work," he said.

Murphy said he believes he would be a good representative for Conestoga students because he knows their issues and cares about making a difference.

"I'd rather see a student that knew what was going on in the college than someone that just wanted to do it to meet important

people," he said.

Murphy said his experience with the DSA and the student perspectives he has learned by being the president will help him if he were to become a board of governors member.

"That's what they (BOD) are looking for a student who knows what is happening and a student who can make the proper decisions," he said.

Murphy said, if elected, he is looking forward to being involved with what is done with the information gathered for the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

"I'm a big fan of KPIs and I want to see what they do with the information or if anything is done," he said.

Murphy is a second-year computer programmer/analyst student and a member of the Ontario Community Colleges Student Parliamentary Association (OCCSPA).

Murphy said he handed in his nomination form on Feb. 23 but as of yet he does not know of any other students are running for the position.

If there is more than one candidate and an election is held, it will be on April 7.

By Jaime Clark

The results of the dental plan referendum were one of the items on the agenda at the Doon Student Association executive meeting held Feb. 23 in the Sanctuary's Other Room.

The DSA asked the student population to vote on whether they would use a dental plan if it were offered as an opt-out plan as the health plan is now.

The question was added to the election ballots for vice-president of education. The referendum question was answered by 135 students of whom 43 people said they would use a dental plan provided by the DSA, 15 said they wouldn't and 77 students said they already had a dental plan.

Gerry Cleaves, vice-president of student affairs, recommended the DSA not take any action now, but continue to collect information on the dental plan.

"The idea isn't completely dead, but I recommend the next executive continue to get more information," he said.

The DSA decided to suggest to the DSA board of directors that the executive continue to research the dental plan over the summer. Mike Harris, chief returning officer for this

year's election, thanked the executive for their help, but said he was disappointed in the voter turnout.

Bryan Bambrick, promotions assistant, suggested that next year the voting should take place after the campaign speeches so the people voting are the ones genuinely interested in the election.

Next on the agenda was the possibility of holding a licensed school dance in the Blue Room cafeteria at the college. Chad Allison, promotion officer, assistant, who said he had a number of students express interest, brought the idea to the executive.

Ellen Menage, promotions assistant, was concerned about students driving home intoxicated. Conestoga is a commuter school and that was a factor in her opinion, she said.

Becky Boertien, director of student life, said she thought students might not want to hold an event of this kind because of the atmosphere.

"Are people going to want to party in the Blue Room?" she asked.

The DSA decided to pass on that idea.

A donation towards the

purchase of a home computer for Myrna Nichols, the student services peer tutor, was approved. The executive, as a whole, will donate to the fund and Kristin Murphy, DSA president, said the executive can make personal donations as well.

In other business, Boertien said student services expressed concerns to the DSA that some students were abusing the food bank donation system and asked the executive what kind of discretion should be made about cutting off donations.

Boertien said student services is concerned about some students coming in two or three times a week to pick up food bank vouchers.

It was suggested that a limit be placed on the number of trips students can make to collect food bank vouchers or to limit the dollar amount they can collect.

Menage said if a cap is put on the dollar amount students can collect, then some students may use the full amount instead of the \$20 they may need.

Tara Llanes, vice-president of education, said it would be too difficult for the DSA executive to suggest alternatives on their own.

She said she would contact other schools to find out what they do.

Additional funding needed for KPI program

By Melissa Dietrich

The Conestoga College board of governors wants the proportion of funding allocation which is based on Key Performance Indicators to be additional funding rather than a percentage of the existing operating grants to the college.

Key Performance Indicators measure college performance. Three components of the KPI's, graduate employment, graduate satisfaction and employer satisfaction, will be used to determine a portion of the government funding for the colleges beginning in 2000 - 2001.

A maximum two per cent adjustment for each of the three indicators or six per cent in total will be allocated to the colleges which perform well on the three indicators.

President John Tibbits told the board at their meeting Feb. 22 that he is trying to encourage the government to make the six per cent based on KPI performance a reward, money that is allocated in addition to existing funding.

He also said he does not want to see colleges, which do poorly on the indicators, to receive less funding because the KPI allocation is part of the existing funding.

The board decided to lobby the government to make the six per cent additional funding by sending a letter to the council of regents and the minister of education.

Tibbits and Kevin Mullan, the college's vice-president of finance, made a presentation comparing the operating grants for each of the three levels of education: elementary, secondary and post-secondary.

Mullan said the operating grants to colleges have decreased by 18 per cent since 1991 - 1992.

He showed the board a chart which displayed the increase in growth within the college system and the increase in available funding.

He added that even the increases in tuition fees have not made

up for the lack of absolute dollars available.

Tibbits told the board he believes if the resources and funding were available, Conestoga could easily be 20 to 30 per cent bigger.

He added that the board of governors will need support from the students and big businesses in the area to help get the ball rolling.

During the meeting Tibbits announced that on Feb. 12 he and college principal Grant McGregor signed an articulation agreement with Western Sydney University permitting Conestoga students to go there for a one-year bachelor's

degree option after they complete a three-year program here.

The board also discussed colleges being permitted to grant applied degrees.

Tibbits said colleges are not looking into becoming universities.

The applied degrees which would be offered through certain programs, yet to be determined, may add an extra year of schooling and may increase tuition fees.

Tibbits said he has approached the education minister about the issue, but more support has to be generated for the idea.

He said there also has been some response from the universities who are not yet willing to accept this idea.

Further details of the issues addressed during the meeting were discussed later in a closed session.

The next meeting will take place on March 22.

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Camera theft angers journalism student

By Elizabeth Sackrider

Someone stole journalism student Jacqueline Smith's camera from the Spoke newsroom on the weekend of Feb. 19. Smith, who begins her work term in March, doesn't have the \$700 to replace her camera.

Smith posted signs around the school asking that the camera be returned. When Darko Zeljkovic saw the signs, he decided to do something to help Smith.

"It made me angry because I know how I would feel," said Zeljkovic.

Zeljkovic, a third-semester journalism student, decided to sell photo cards to raise money to buy Smith a new camera.

He sold the photo cards at an exhibition during the week of March 8 in the Sanctuary.

Zeljkovic and Smith have been acquaintances since they started the journalism program. Zeljkovic said he feels bad because he knows how much a camera can mean to somebody in

journalism.

Zeljkovic who came from Bosnia and Smith whose family emigrated from Trinidad share the common link of being a minority.

"I know she came from another country like I did. Now she has to go on her work term without her camera," said Zeljkovic.

Things like this can happen and nobody has any money to do anything because they are all students, said Zeljkovic.

"I know how much she wants to do this, to be a professional journalist," he said. "I just put myself in her shoes."

To raise funds for the new camera, Zeljkovic has also asked students in his class if they could help. He also suggested that all journalism students might donate something towards the effort.

Smith last saw her camera on Friday, Feb. 18 when she left school at 7:30 p.m. to attend a church service.

The next morning Smith couldn't find her camera

anywhere.

"I freaked out," said the fifth-semester student. "I didn't know what to do."

The missing camera wasn't the only problem. Smith had planned to take photos at a wedding that afternoon. She searched the entire newsroom but to no avail.

"I wanted my camera, but I was just thinking about the wedding," said Smith. "I was the only photographer."

Smith had volunteered to take photos for an older couple in her congregation who couldn't afford the high cost of a professional photographer.

Smith said whoever took her camera was a disgrace.

"I swear, if I would have caught them I would have attacked them," said Smith. "I wouldn't care how many or if I could overpower them or not."

Since the incident in February, Waterloo regional police have recovered Smith's camera in a pawnshop.

DSA executive shuffle discussed

By Lisa Wilhelm

The acceptance of the new employed positions and the changes to the already existing positions on the Doon Student Association executive were the main topic of discussion at the Feb. 24 DSA board of directors meeting.

Jen Hussey, who sits on the board of directors and is vice-president of operations for the DSA, began the meeting by going over an existing DSA position which has been renamed business manager and has been modified to include more responsibilities.

She then went over the job of promotions co-ordinator, another new job being added to the DSA. Hussey also went over the descriptions of the remaining DSA executive jobs, listing minor modifications made by the executive at their last meeting.

She then did a quick overview of the budget outlining the modifications also made at the last DSA meeting. After some discussion, the job descriptions and the budget were passed with all 16 members present voting in favour of them.

Ellen Menage, who also sits on the board and is the DSA promotions co-ordinator, then raised other items discussed at the DSA meeting to be approved by the board of directors.

The first item was a discussion about whether to have another dinner show with X-rated hypnotist Tony Lee, or a battle of the bands. Both are timely in

nature as Lee will only be in the Kitchener area at a certain time, but this is the same time that the battle of the bands would have to take place in order for the winning group to enter the regional competition.

One of the main problems for the DSA is that both events would have to take place at the end of March, leaving little time for the executive to plan such elaborate events at the same time.

Options considered included holding the Lee event in March and holding the battle of the bands as a competition within the college even though that would mean the winners could not compete at the regionals.

Menage also discussed upcoming activities and tabled a motion to purchase security cameras and storage cabinets.

The chief returning officer Mike Harris also discussed the DSA election results. He put forth a motion for the board to

approve the results of the election.

Gerry Cleaves, DSA vice-president of student affairs, then presented the results of the dental plan referendum, which was included on the election ballot in the recent DSA election.

The problem that emerged from this referendum is that it may indicate many students are already covered by a dental plan, but Cleaves said that a lot of people were interested and that it's something that should be carried over to next year's executive.

Cleaves also updated the board with information about the college's drug plan, more specifically, what areas of the coverage was most used.

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Field of dreams, memories and dad

There is an old phrase that states that when we are young, the future is an adversary, and as we age, our adversary becomes the past.

There is an honest truth in this dichotomy. The future and the past are separate entities, but are inseparably linked. One allures us with possibility, the other haunts us with its finality. Now and then you may even catch yourself



Ken Groulx

thinking about how it is and how it was. Baseball appreciates this emotion. Its grand, storied past is built upon recollections and reminiscence.

It is the lifeblood not only of the game, but also of those who commit themselves to it. These old black and white memories flicker in the conscience of any devout follower of the game.

The graceful stride of Joe DiMaggio pursuing flyballs in old Yankee Stadium; Duke Snider hitching rides home with fans after day games in long-gone Ebbets Field; Mickey Mantle battling teammate Roger Maris for

Babe Ruth's 61 home-run record in '61. As marvelous as these memories are, however, they are not first hand.

But as spring training for the 1999 season unfolds and the last season of the old millennium draws anxiously near, vivid memories of an eight-year-old boy and his father come to mind.

On a perfect bright and clear mid-summer afternoon, the father buys the boy some cotton candy nearly as big as the boy, takes him by the hand and leads him up a cavernous, dark tunnel.

Suddenly, an unnaturally green, manicured field appears, roamed

by the very same players the boy had only seen on his collected baseball cards. The two take their seats and are soothed by the sounds of leather on leather and the crack of a Louisville slugger that echoes throughout the stadium. The names of such immortals as Cobb and Kaline hang in the air like whispers on your shoulder.

They watch the game, and slowly, the boy and his father become intoxicated by the thrill of the grass.

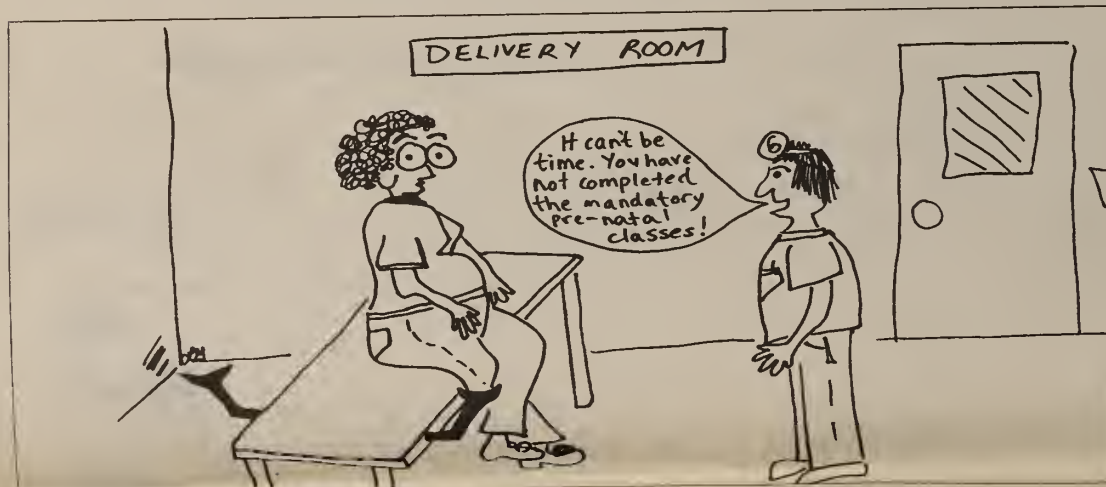
"Is this heaven, dad?"

"No, son, it's Detroit."

As years passed, however, and

the boy grew older, their once frequent trips to that hallowed sports ground became less frequent, and eventually ceased altogether.

But as the boy grew into his manhood, he would come to realize the value of his past, his memories and the constant link that bonded him and his father. That is why some time this summer, perhaps on a perfect bright and clear afternoon, the boy will take his father back to that place, so they may immerse themselves in thick memories and hear those soothing whispers once again.



Travelling can be risky business

Because I read the newspaper every-day I have become somewhat desensitized to the many reports on murder and destruction.

But, when I read about the eight tourists murdered in Uganda, it struck a personal chord.

A friend of mine, whom I was visiting in London, England, the day the massacres happened, is just the type of person to travel to a place like Uganda. He is an adventure seeker and an eco-tourist. He is searching for the edge and his desire to find it has taken him off the beaten track many times in the past four years.

He is part of a small number of tourists who search for what is not easily accessible - the places where locals remain in their natural cultures; the places where



Jeanette Everall

jungles have yet to be paved over for international airports, shopping malls and high-rise hotels.

The group of tourists who were visiting Bwindi National Park, where the brutal and senseless act of violence began, are also these kinds of tourists.

It is unfortunate that such a tragic event should happen to the very best kind of travellers. These people were not content to observe animals caged up in laboratories and zoos, but instead chose to take a risk to travel to one of the world's most dangerous countries to see this endangered species roam free in its natural habitat.

The travellers who lost their lives, and those who have lived to tell the tale, should be admired and remembered for their courage and enterprising nature. They should also be applauded for their integrity and intelligence.

These gorilla watchers were wise enough to know this Ugandan rainforest is one of the

last strongholds for these rare mountain gorillas and they were driven enough to embark on an adventure to see these primates before they vanish. And, I have no doubt, this same group, victims of political crossfire, knew the risks of their destination.

Today, there is not a country in the world where conditions go unreported. In fact, there is even a travel guide for the most dangerous places in the world. My friend happens to be the proud owner of this guide. He shared its contents with me during our reunion. And when he sets out on his travels again I'm guessing he will choose to travel to one of the countries listed in the guide. Then I will be the one, like the friends and families of the 31 tourists involved in the ordeal, who will worry about the safety of my friend. However, I understand his desire to find the undiscovered areas of this planet and I can only hold my breath and wish him all

Fingerprinting rule unpopular with teachers

Since Jan. 1, the Ontario College of Teachers, the governing body for Ontario teachers, has required criminal

record checks of all graduates before they can be certified.

In areas where police forces do not provide this service, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police do the check and they require a thumbprint as part of their check.

Teacher's unions have expressed their distaste that teachers are to be fingerprinted as a method of screening out anyone convicted of serious crimes.

As ECE students at this college know, criminal record checks are standard procedure for someone working with children.

History is littered with records of teachers, coaches, clergy, child-care providers and cub-scout leaders who have abused children.

I'd like to think the world is a safe place for my children but I am not willing to hide my head in the sand.

I am sure it is uncomfortable for a teacher to be fingerprinted, an action that can conjure up images of movie criminals in cop stories. Some would argue, however, it shouldn't bother them if they have nothing to hide.

It is a fine line to walk for a



Janet Wakutz

parent to educate, guide and warn their children about the harsh realities of life without frightening them. It's unfortunate that a few sick individuals can cause society to be mistrustful of the people in whose hands we entrust our children for several hours a day.

Teachers too, need to protect themselves and their students. Zero tolerance is a term used frequently in schools now. It means that negative behaviour will not be tolerated.

Specifically, in my children's elementary school, such negative actions have included breaking a pencil, popping a chip bag, singing rude songs and, of course, the usual hitting, shoving, kicking that is not uncommon to playgrounds.

So, just as the negative performance of my children should not be tolerated, and this includes being unwilling to co-operate with teachers, I feel negative conduct from their teachers is just as intolerable.

Alarming, the kind of negative behaviour that fingerprinting could screen against, would be far more damaging to a child than breaking a pencil is to a teacher.

I believe failure to submit to a criminal check or being unco-operative in providing a thumbprint should be greeted with a zero-tolerance philosophy. Teachers have rights to privacy, but children have a right to safety, security and a healthy environment.

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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Streeter

College should have campus bar: students

By Judy Sankar

An excess of funds accumulated by the Doon Student Association has resulted in the brainstorming of ideas for how to use the money.

Accumulated over the past two years and from about five years ago, the DSA has reported an excess of \$30,000-\$40,000.

Space that will be available when the construction of the addition to the technology wing is finished is another factor in deciding how to use the funds.

Some of the ideas include a quiet study lounge, an exercise room and a bar.

Students at Conestoga were asked if they think a bar should be constructed right in the main building on Doon campus college in addition to the current bar, the Roost, located in the recreation centre.

The majority of students were in favour of a bar in the main building on Doon campus.

"I think we should have a bar," said Luke Mulder, a third-year electrical-engineering technology student. "People would use it more because you wouldn't have to walk all the way to the rec centre."

Carlos Vidrero, a paramedics program graduate, said there's two ways to look at bringing a bar into the building.

"It's good stress relief for students but there are also a lot of college students that are alcoholics."

Paramedics student Steph Coletta said a bar that was closer and bigger than the Roost could be better for events.

"If you could have a bar closer to the campus, you could have pub nights there instead. You could always have an eatery right off the pub. Something else that is right there would draw more people too," she said.

Teresa Bricker, a third-year marketing student, had similar thoughts on the subject.

"I think it [a bar] would draw more people out to events. It

would draw out people who normally wouldn't get involved," she said adding that it would get it's fair share of business.

First-year registered nursing student Leanne Leech said the excess funds should not be used for a bar.

"I don't think they should have a bar right in here. I think they could put the money to better use," she said.

"I think we should have a bar (in the campus' main building). People would use it more because you wouldn't have to walk all the way to the rec centre."

*Luke Mulder,
third-year electrical
engineering technology student*

Jennifer Carefoot, who is also in first-year registered nursing referred to other colleges which already have bars.

"I think they should put a bar in. I know another college that has one and they make a lot of money," she said.

While Libby Leung, first-year registered nursing, agreed that a bar would make a lot of money, she said a bar at Conestoga would depend on a couple of factors.

"It depends on how they are going to manage it," Leung said. "It also depends on whether the DSA is going to just put money into it or if they're going to make more off of it."

Apart from the benefits of making money and being closer, the placement of responsibility upon the students was an issue.

Marc Guran, a second-year student in electronics engineering technology computer systems and

electrical engineering technology telecommunications, was in favour of a bar.

"I think there should be because we're all responsible adults," he said. "I don't see why we shouldn't be given the option of drinking if we want to."

Greg Wood, a second-year student in electronics engineering technology telecommunications, agreed.

"Why shouldn't there be a bar? We should be considered responsible enough for it," he said.

Shaun Samuels, a second-year student in mechanical engineering technology design and analysis, said the having a bar in the main building would be more convenient because people don't want to walk.

The economics and social environment were also two other points he raised.

"It'll bring more money into the building," said Samuels. "It also brings another social environment to the college. We already have the Sanctuary and the cafeteria so something new would attract a lot of people."

Photos by Sarah Thomson

Letter to the editor

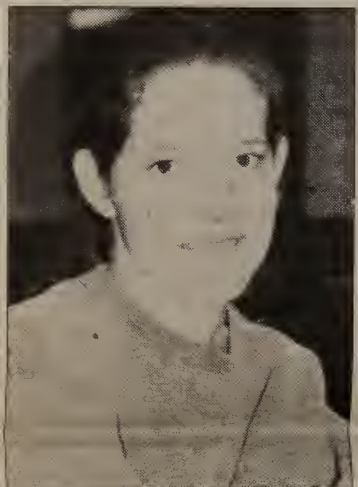
Statistics quoted incorrectly

I wanted to take the opportunity to respond in particular to a quote attributed to me in a recent article written by Wayne Collins on homelessness. In the article I am quoted as saying that the Region of Waterloo alone had 2,000 homeless youth in 1998. In fact, I told Wayne that one of the programs that serve street youth, namely R.O.O.F., served around 2,000 different youth in 1998. This is not to infer in any way that even the majority of these youth were "homeless" during the time period that they received services from R.O.O.F. The reality remains that no one has been able to put a number to the matter of homelessness among youth at any point in time, however, it is considerably less than 2,000.

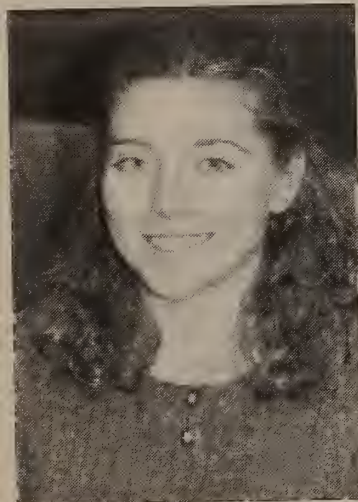
*Dick Parker,
faculty, social services*



Luke Mulder, third-year electrical engineering technology student.



Jennifer Carefoot, first-year registered nursing student.



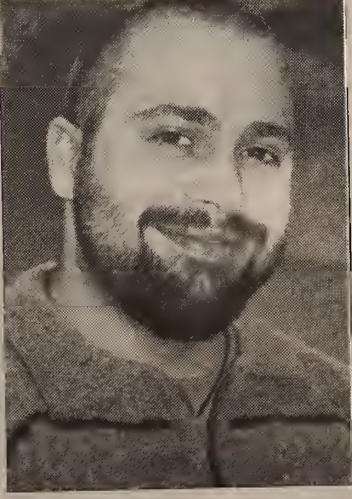
Leanne Leech, first-year registered nursing student.



Shaun Samuels, second-year mechanical engineering technology design and analysis student.



Teresa Bricker, a third-year marketing student.



Marc Guran, second-year electronics engineering technology computer systems and electrical engineering student.



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Graphic design program recognizes advisory committee

By Jacqueline Smith

Students and faculty of the Conestoga graphic design program along with the program's advisory committee members, the college president and members of the college's board of governors held an appreciation event on Feb. 25.

The event was held to recognize the efforts of the program's advisory committee for their fund-raising initiative that pulled in \$102,000 for the program.

"If we really hope to have the post-secondary level of service that this community really needs and expects, it is through partnership," said college president John Tibbits in his speech. "There is no way that we are going to get the money from any level of government unless there is some sort of partnership from the private sector."

Tibbits said he was pleased with the number of companies who show their efforts for Conestoga.

Companies in Kitchener-Waterloo, Guelph, London, Mississauga and Toronto donated the money that was used to update equipment in the graphic design program.

Bill Reimer, who was described as "one of the major players" by Tibbits, said the advisory committee started the project back in 1996. He said a major curriculum review looked at how the current program was using technology as part of the teaching process and it found that the computers were inadequate.

The computers used in the program lagged behind the current technology, said Reimer.

"They were using black and white computers when all the market place was colour, so they did not have the proper technology in the classroom to do the job," he said.

Reimer said the advisory committee went to the marketplace for help and 12 companies donated the \$102,000.

Allan Quarry, chair of the fund-raising committee, agreed with Reimer that the committee received a great response from the community.

"The companies in the communications sector recognized how important it is for the students to have tools that will enable them to learn quickly and to adapt to the working community as fast as they can," Quarry said.

He said there is a real benefit not just for the students but for the future employers.

"I think it is very exciting for the students. They are working without their hands tied behind their backs anymore," Reimer said, adding that the students cannot be creative while worrying about the technology being in their way.

"Because of the new equipment, we are able to do a lot more this year than we were able to do last year," said Sean Baker, a second-year student in the program.

Each of the 30 second-year students in the program designed a plaque and one was chosen to acknowledge the companies for their donations. Russell Gibbs designed the winning plaque which was unveiled at the event.

It will be placed outside the double doors in the graphic design area.

Memory retrieval skills save time in the long run

By Sarah Thomson

If students manipulate information through various memory techniques they will increase the accessibility of retrieving information at a later date, Lynn Robbins, a student services counsellor, suggested at a recent workshop held Monday, Feb. 22 and Tuesday, Feb. 23.

Robbins explained to the one student who attended the Memory Joggers workshop on Feb. 22 that one of the most important tips about memory retention is to make the information students are studying meaningful to them.

"To make a word meaningful to you, you have to give it its own association (another word/phrase) to remind you of the original item — a cue," said Robbins. "Not being able to remember is not poor memory, but poor learning associations and cues to remember them by."

For instance, the word acrophobia, the fear of heights, could be broken into stems. Phobia is associated with a fear of something; an association the brain is familiar with. The other part of the word acro- can be associated with the similar word acrobats, who do not suffer from acrophobia.

Acronyms, words where every

letter represents another word, i.e. USA, are also invaluable memory jogging tools, said Robbins.

If acronyms become entrenched in study habits they will make recall of material higher, especially lists. Robbins cited the example of remembering the Great Lakes by using the acronym HOMES.

Rhyme is another effective memory-work tool and leads to long-term memory retention.

"Just think of all the commercial jingles you have retained over the years," said Robbins, who pointed out that even the ABC's are sung to a rhythm.

In addition to audio cues, visual cues are also important skills to develop, said Robbins who used the example that many people remember where Italy is on a map because it looks like a boot.

As for math, Robbins said numbers are more difficult than words because students don't know what connects them together so students have to create their own meaning. There are some handy hints to remembering numbers and formulas, she said.

For example, Robbins used the number 1418210311492 and memorized it by breaking it

down into symbols 14181 stood for I, a visual symbol of the number 1, four one ate too, for their corresponding sounds, 1031 the date of Halloween, and 1492 for Columbus. So the number 1418210311492 became the sentence I four one ate too Halloween Columbus.

When memorizing numbers try to use more symbols to decrease the amount of information to remember, said Robbins.

To show the importance of manipulating information and actively working with it, Robbins used a chart to illustrate passive and active learning styles and their effectiveness on memory retention.

Ten per cent of what is read is remembered, while 90 per cent of what is said and done through dramatic presentations, simulations and doing hands-on work is remembered, said Robbins.

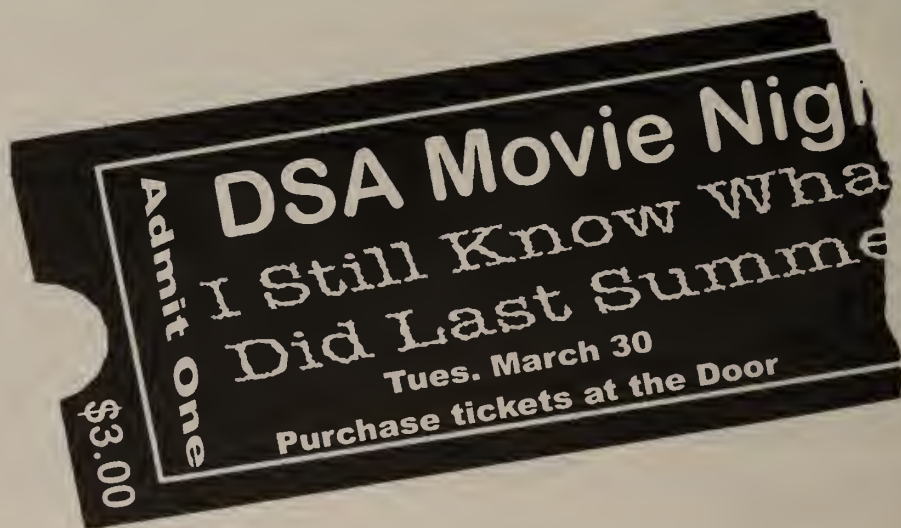
The "magic ingredient" to jogging memory is reviewing which strengthens the memory, she said.

For the most effective memory retention, review should be done for 10 minutes after the class, if possible, later the same day, the next day, the end of the week and the end of the month, and a review just prior to the test, said Robbins.

Trimming time



Peter Higgins trims branches off bushes near the college's parking lot 3. He has worked in physical resources for almost 30 years. (Photo by Wayne Collins)



Games Week March 15 - 18

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Photos speak volumes for Serbian student

By Wayne Collins

Journalism student Darko Zeljkovic's first language is Serbian and English is his second language but photography is becoming his favorite way to communicate his ideas.

When he first came to Canada, he says, he "couldn't find nice words to buff it up," but believes he speaks straight with people.

"(I feel I could write) excellent in my own language," he says, adding a year or two of straight English may improve his Canadian journalism writing skills.

This struggle with English, however, has also fueled an unexpected passion for photography. He is fascinated with how photojournalism tells stories.

During his first semester in the basic photography course of the journalism program at Conestoga College, Zeljkovic says he sacrificed much classroom time to master his camera and practise darkroom techniques.

While many students were still experimenting with shutter speeds and aperture openings on their cameras, Zeljkovic was

developing pictures of Toronto's homeless people and drug addicts.

He also returned last summer to his hometown of Banja Luka in the Republika Srpska, the Serbian part of Bosnia. He says he couldn't get a pass to go into the war zones but still shot 80 rolls of film on the trip.

The former soldier in the Bosnian army says it wasn't an easy experience.

"I had to meet the mothers of my killed friends (again)," he says, adding it was almost impossible.

The war left him feeling empty, says Zeljkovic, and changed his life forever. Eventually, photography, which he considers an art form, became a way of dealing with his post traumatic stress disorder and creating a more positive lifestyle.

"Writing or art," he says, "is a better way to cope and to express yourself instead of becoming suicidal and self-destructive."

He adds that the arts come from emotions.

He hopes his recent photography exhibit in the DSA lounge from March 8 to 12 was appreciated by a few students.

Several themes Zeljkovic covered in the exhibition included photojournalism pictures, digital photography, pictures of homelessness in Toronto and Kitchener and a collage.

"I've never before found a way to express myself like now," he says, adding that his ideas had been screaming to get out during years of travel and war that he describes as an unhealthy lifestyle.

"In the western world," he says, "money measures success, but in European countries a knowledge of art and politics is regarded highly."

Zeljkovic's passion for photography has led him to delay his journalism studies to attend Loyalist College's photography program. He hopes it will lead to a photojournalism career sooner.

He hasn't yet decided where his print journalism courses fit into his future.

"I'm still looking for myself," he says, but adds he is not afraid to go anywhere for a good story or to give it his best shot.

The language of photography, he hopes, will satisfy his need to express himself and result in a freelance career.



Darko Zeljkovic says he considers photography an art form. He plans to attend Loyalist College to concentrate on photography next semester.
(Photo by Wayne Collins)

College teacher is a 'Lynn-of-all-trades'

By Jacqueline Smith

Growing up on a dairy farm in New Shakespeare, Ont., Lynn Romagnoli had no idea she would end up with a career outside farming.

Romagnoli, who has been teaching at Conestoga College for 14 years, talked about the many roles she has played both at home and in the work force.

Concerning her life on a farm, Romagnoli shared her memories of hard work in the family business.

"All the family members had a job on the farm from when we were young," she said. "From gathering and cleaning eggs, to getting up at 6 a.m., as we get older, to help with milking cows."

Summer was not vacation time. Summers were more hectic than the other seasons, Romagnoli said.

"The summers were extremely busy times with planting and harvesting the crops in addition to taking care of the animals," she said.

Because her family had a very large garden, Romagnoli said they were able to preserve much of their food.

"Twice a year we would make trips to the Niagara area to pick cherries and peaches for freezing or canning," she said.

Romagnoli, who attended Waterloo Oxford school, took an interest in sewing and cooking. She learned more on how to cook and sew in 4-H homemaking classes.

Because of her rural roots, Romagnoli attended the University of Guelph where she earned a four-year degree in nutrition and textiles.

During the summer, she sewed costumes at the Stratford Shakespearean Festival which she described as an education in itself.

"I learned a lot, not only about the intricacies of costume making, but also about the difficult and demanding personalities of the 'European cutters,'" she said.

She found out that there is a dark side to every glamorous job.

"Many days I wished I was back working on our dairy farm," she said.

While at the University of Guelph, she met her first husband who became a vet.

After obtaining her degree at the University of Guelph, Romagnoli said she didn't know what she wanted to do. She

continued on to the University of Toronto where she earned a Bachelor of Education degree.

Her second degree started her teaching career with the Waterloo County board of education and eventually led her to Conestoga College.

Romagnoli and her first husband bought a farm near Wellesley. They had three children, a vet practice and a farming operation.

"Since then, I've had experiences in various mothering roles. A

stay-at-home mom, a single working mom, a bereaved mom, and a remarried step-mom," said Romagnoli who lost her eldest child in a car accident two years ago. At present, she lives in an old restored 1884 house outside Maryhill with her two teens, her new husband and his three teens.

"My husband David and I like antique fixtures and the pursuit of them," she said.

Romagnoli said she and her family also enjoy skiing and occasional travels to far away places.

When asked what plans she had for the March break, she said she and the family would be going to Turks en Caucus.

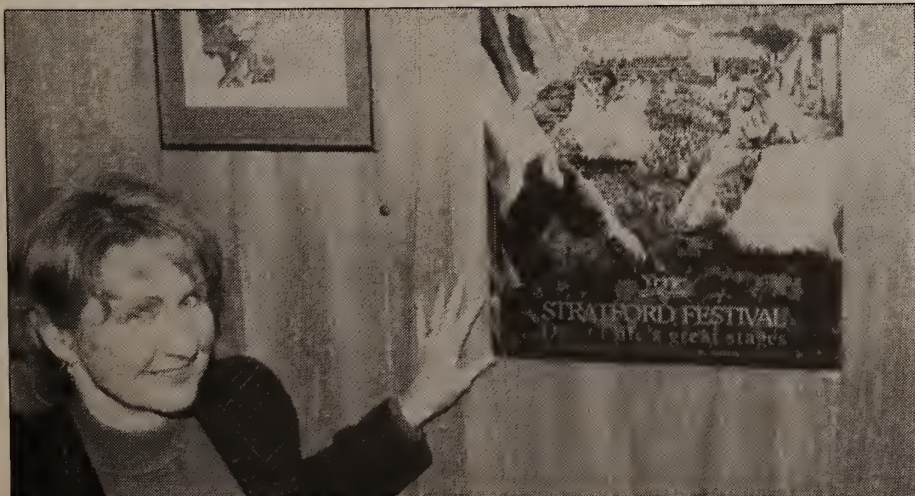
Apart from travelling and collecting antiques, she enjoys gardening, cooking, symphony and pop music. She also enjoys watching her teen's hockey games and her teaching roles.

Romagnoli currently teaches communications and strategies for student success in the general arts and science program for the college. She has been on the Employees for Excellence Committee since its inception and presently gives a seminar on nutrition in the month of June.

When asked about her plans for the future, Romagnoli said she has a few other career choices in mind.

"Everybody is talking about retirement, I am certainly not going to wait until I am old and not effective anymore," she said.

"I can't really say what I will be doing but I have a lot of interest in nutrition in which I planned to pursue a career."



Lynn Romagnoli has sewn costumes for the Stratford Shakespearean Festival, designs shown in poster above.
(Photo by Jacqueline Smith)

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Cambrian captures OCAA crown; Condors take bronze

By Charles Kuepfer

There were no real surprises at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's (OCAA) hockey playoff tournament held March 1-5 at the Conestoga College recreation centre.

The Cambrian Golden Shield, who finished in first place during the regular season, captured the gold medal by defeating the Seneca Sting 6-3, adding to their already impressive season.

With the loss, Seneca finished the tournament with the silver medal while Conestoga settled for the bronze, beating the Humber Hawks 8-6 in a battle of the two teams which lost in the tournament's opening round.

Cambrian has now earned a berth in the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association's (CCAA) Men's Hockey Championship alongside tournament host Conestoga. The tournament takes place at the Conestoga recreation centre from March 17-20.

The Condors will enter the national championships on a positive note after not only beating Humber, a team they lost to three times during the regular season, but with an

offence that has regained its scoring touch.

"The biggest thing for us was to just get a win and go in on a high note to the nationals," said Condor forward Sean Murray, who was named the player of the game in Conestoga's victory over Humber.

"We wanted to win the tournament but third is better than nothing," Murray said.

He credited Conestoga's turnaround, from a loss to Cambrian in the tournament's first game to the team's playing more relaxed hockey and trying to have fun on the ice.

Murray said they were missing some key third-line and fourth-line players who should be back for the nationals.

"Once we get everybody back in the lineup we're going to have four solid lines," said Murray. "We're going to be tough to beat."

In their bronze medal game, Conestoga erupted for four first-period goals in the span of four minutes and nine seconds with four different Condors finding the back of the net.

Ramsey Hanlon, Darren Dillon, Ian MacDonald and Sean Murray each scored to

give the Condors the lead for good.

Humber responded with three quick goals of their own, including one with only four seconds left in the period to pull within a goal.

Mark Hubble and Sheldon Mustard added to the Condors' lead before the midway point of the second period. The Hawks kept the game close by scoring

two goals in the second half of the period, but MacDonald's second goal of the game gave Conestoga a 7-5 edge at the end of two periods of play.

Both teams exchanged goals in the third period with Pavel Baoutine scoring for the Condors.

Conestoga will next see action at the national championships, a tournament that will mark

the end of the Condors' impressive turnaround since January.

The Condors finished the season with a record of 9-8-1 (won-lost-tied), earning 19 points and finishing tied for fourth place in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association hockey standings.

They scored a total of 64 goals through the duration of the season while allowing 63.



Condor goaltender Anthony Gignac kicks out a shot as teammate defenceman Brian Anderson (7) goes after the rebound, while Condor forward Ian MacDonald (19) looks on. The Condors held Cambrian at bay through the first period but eventually were overpowered 4-1 by the Golden Shields.

(Photo By Charles Kuepfer)

Conestoga to host national championship

By Brian Smiley

Conestoga College will host the Canadian Colleges Athletic Association (CCAA) hockey championships this weekend at the recreation centre and there may be more surprises than the Condors earning gold.

Walter Gretzky, father of hockey's Wayne Gretzky, may be at the championship game to drop the ceremonial first puck or perform some similar function.

Ian James, manager of athletics and recreation, couldn't

confirm Gretzky would be at the game, but did say Conestoga may surprise their opponents in the round-robin tournament.

"We have a very good chance in this tournament," James said.

The three-team tournament begins on Wednesday with the winner of the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) champion unknown at press time) playing the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association champion Cambrian Golden Shield at 7:30 p.m.

The Condors, who won the bronze medal in the OCAA

championships, see their first action of the tournament on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. when they play the champion of the ACAC. The round robin concludes with Conestoga playing Cambrian on Friday at 7:30 p.m.

The two teams with the best record through the round-robin play will meet on Saturday at noon to decide the national champion.

Tickets for the championship can be purchased at the recreation centre. The cost is \$2 for students, \$5 for community members and children under 12 get in free.

From the cheap seats

Get out and enjoy that wonderful white stuff

Many people have had enough of winter, while others, like myself, never want it to leave. As the snow continues to fly, winter sports enthusiasts, like myself, couldn't be happier.

This extended taste of winter is like a gift because when winter ends and the snow begins to melt, it is like rain on a wedding day. It fills us with emotions we don't know how to deal with.

It is the beginning of the end of yet another ski, snowboard, snowmobiling, skating and hockey season, sports we will not have the joy and luxury to participate in for at least another nine months.

There is nothing more exciting than waking up on a cold, stormy morning to find 30 centimetres of new snow. Then the winter sports enthusiasts jump out of bed ready for the apparent bad conditions.

Whether you like winter or not, is all a frame of



Lindsay Gibson

mind. I am of the opinion that winter is only what you make it.

The majority of people who hate winter have never tried a winter sport or have only attempted one and disliked it. If you fall in love with a sport that only can be done one season a year, it becomes as exciting as Christmas — something to look forward to in the warmer months.

But, it is obvious that most people are getting sick of winter. Fewer people are taking part in these winter activities than a month ago and many are already looking forward to the rain of April.

The thrill of speed on a snowmobile or the adrenaline rush a person gets from skiing is what winter is all about. Your hands being so cold you can't even hold your ski poles and then warming up over a hot chocolate in the lodge paints as equally a pretty picture to me as lazing in the sun on a beach in Florida.

Call me a pessimist, but I just get angry when people say they hate winter. That is not possible in my mind, if you just get out and experience it. So get out and enjoy it while you still can.

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Condors finish regular season in style

By Brian Smiley

Conestoga's women's indoor soccer team concluded their regular season matches on Feb. 23, by crushing last place Burn's Howff 10-0 at the recreation centre.

The Condors knew they would be missing several players but, against the winless Burn's Howff, they had an easy time controlling the game.

"We knew we weren't going to use a lot of energy," coach Geoff Johnstone said, "except that we were a bit short-handed."

The Condors played the game with no substitutes, as several players were missing due to injury, sickness and vacation. That gave the players who could show up a chance to pad their personal statistics.

The game started a little slowly for Conestoga. It wasn't until the



Conestoga's Sasha Gruetzmacher (6) scored five goals, leading the Condors to a 10-0 win over Burn's Howff at the recreation centre on Feb. 23.
(Photo by Brian Smiley)

six-minute mark that Jenn Melnyk potted the first goal of the game. After creating a turnover at centre, Melnyk took two tries to put the ball past the keeper.

Melnyk's goal seemed to spark

the Condors and after that goal they pumped the ball into their opponents' net at a frantic pace.

Sasha Gruetzmacher scored the next five goals to put Conestoga up 6-0. Gruetzmacher seemed to

score at will and after her last goal, Johnstone shook up the lineup by moving her to defence, however, the move wasn't enough to stop the scoring.

Beth Taylor scored shortly after Gruetzmacher's fifth goal and Rebecca Miller added one of her own after that to make the score 8-0.

Jenn Melnyk ended the first half by scoring her second goal of the game.

To start the second half, Johnstone initiated some new tactics to keep the game interesting and give the varsity team a chance to work on some different aspects of their game.

The players were instructed to see how many passes they could successfully string together without a turnover and the strikers were told to shoot with their weaker leg.

"We tried to give them different

objectives," Johnstone said. "The passing worked."

While Jenn Melnyk, who completed her hat-trick, was the only Condor to score in the second half, Conestoga still controlled the tempo of the game.

The squad worked the ball around the perimeter of the Burn's Howff goal with excellent precision. Any spectators who hadn't been to an indoor soccer game before may have thought it was the soccer equivalent of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team. The Condors' skill at adapting to their coaches' task showed why they own the second best record in the league at 10-1-4.

The 10-0 thrashing of Burn's Howff should be a good warm-up for Conestoga. After receiving a first-round playoff bye, the team next plays in the semifinals March 16 at the recreation centre against an undetermined opponent.

Condors' gold medal hopes crushed by Cambrian

By Charles Kuepfer

It was a case of David versus Goliath.

But the Condors couldn't kill the giant that came in the form of the Cambrian Golden Shield.

The team finished first in the Ontario Colleges' Athletic Association (OCAA) hockey standings and scored 65 more goals than Conestoga.

The Condors were beaten 4-1 by Cambrian in their opening game of the OCAA finals on March 5 at the Conestoga College recreation centre. The loss crushed any hope of a gold medal victory for the Condors in the tournament.

But Conestoga didn't go down without a fight.

The Condors held the Golden Shield scoreless through the first period before giving up the game's

opening goal just over three minutes into the second.

Conestoga goaltender Anthony Gignac kept his team in the game throughout the period. Cambrian goaltender Blair Malto was equally impressive, stopping the Condors on a five-on-three man advantage.

Cambrian struck again before the period ended, scoring their second power-play goal of the game with only 21 seconds left to take a 2-0 lead.

In the third period, the Condors fell further behind surrendering a third goal just over six minutes in.

Sheldon Mustard finally got Conestoga on the board, picking the top corner of the Cambrian net to give the Condors some hope.

But the Golden Shield put the game away with 7:31 remaining, netting their fourth of the match

and regaining their three-goal lead.

Condor coach Ken Galerno said he was disappointed with the loss, especially since the Condors matched Cambrian well, especially in the first period.

"We played with them five-on-five. We played with them fine when we were at full strength," said Galerno.

He noted again that his players need to start using their heads.

"Hopefully we can learn from

this and prepare for the nationals," said Galerno.

He said that if there was a turning point in the game, it was in the second period when the Condors failed to score with a five-on-three power-play.

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DAN VALKOS

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The Sanctuary

By Brian Smiley

Even though the Condors' men's indoor soccer team continues to give up goals at an alarming rate, they were able to capture second place in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Central Region qualifying tournament

held March 5 and 6.

Coach Geoff Johnstone said he was happy with his team's finish, but he is still bothered by certain aspects of their game.

"It's still a disturbing factor that we give up a lot of goals," he said.

With the second place finish in

the round robin tournament, the Condors advance to the provincial championships in North Bay on the weekend of March 18.

Conestoga opened the tournament with a 4-2 victory over Canadore. Durhan Sherifali, Paul McQuade, Shaun Samuels and Dwayne Bell scored the

goals. Canadore was only able to sneak their two goals in on penalty shots.

In their second game, the Condors were led by Paul Mouridian, Marko Jurasic, Sherifali and McQuade to a 4-2 win over George Brown.

Conestoga's method of play caught up with them in their third game when they were beaten by Centennial 5-3. Dan Krauter, Dan Mihelic and Sherifali scored for the Condors.

Johnstone said he knew what to expect.

"We're still a run-and-gun type of team," he said.

In their final game of the tournament, the men were able to defeat Confederation 2-0 and

secure a spot in the provincial championship. McQuade and Mouridian scored the goals and Bill Johnson earned the shutout.

While Johnstone may be disappointed in his team's lack of defence, he was still pleased with certain aspects of their game.

"The good things about their play were their attacking and ball movement."

Johnstone was also happy with the play of Marko Jurasic.

"He was as solid as a rock on the back," Johnstone said.

Conestoga's schedule is up in the air. If they were able to slide into the playoffs, they will play on Thursday night. If not, they won't see action again until the provincials.

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Alumni conclude undefeated season

By Rob Himburg

The Alumni women's indoor soccer team held onto their undefeated regular season record with a 10-0 thrashing of Guelph in community league action on Feb. 23 at the recreation centre.

Marlene Ford netted four goals leading Alumni as the Guelph team, who only had five players in total, constantly changed their goalkeeper. Also contributing for the Alumni were Amy Olson and Andrea Heroux who both scored three goals each.

The record of the Alumni at the end of the regular season stood at 12-0-3 while Guelph dropped to 2-12-1.

The Alumni, who had the

luxury of an extra player as the game was played four on four, totally dominated from the start of the game right through to the finish. All that the Guelph team could do was rotate their goalkeeper to give a tired forward a break.

With the playoffs starting up and the Alumni getting a first-round bye, they played their last game as a fun one.

"We didn't need an injury," said Ford. "It was a game that we didn't have to chase down every ball at top speed."

They also plan on working a bit during their week off.

"We'll probably get together and kick the ball around a bit just to stay in game shape," she said.

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Women Condors win qualifying tournament

By Brian Smiley

Conestoga's women's indoor soccer team will compete in the provincial championships after winning the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Central Region qualifying tournament held March 5 and 6.

The top two teams in the round-robin tournament qualify for the provincial championships to be held in North Bay on the weekend of March 18.

The Condors opened the tournament against George Brown with a 2-1 win, led by the scoring of Danny Sirio and Beth Taylor.

Coach Geoff Johnstone was pleased with the first game, but said the next two games were sloppy.

"They competed well," he said. "It took us a while to get our game together."

Next up for the Condors was Canadore. The team made quick work of them, disposing of them by a score of 6-0. Karen Melanson got two goals, Sasha Greutzmacher added two and Sirio netted the other two. Stephanie Den Haan earned the shutout.

Conestoga completed their undefeated weekend by beating Centennial 4-0. Jenn Melnyk,

Melanson, Sirio and Greutzmacher scored, while Den Haan got her second shutout of the tournament.

Johnstone said that overall he was pleased with the end result, a 3-0 record, first place and a goal differential of 12-1.

"It's difficult to be unhappy with a team that goes 3-0," he said.

Johnstone said he was pleased with the play of Alycia Punnett and the goal scorers.

"Alycia dictated the flow of the game and quarterbacked

from the back, and the goal scorers scored their goals," he said.

The Condors are in action Tuesday night at the recreation centre. They play in the provincial championships this weekend.

SAC needs motivated leaders

College's student athletic committee accepts applicants

By Rob Himburg

A committee organized to help operate the intramural leagues at Conestoga College is looking for new blood in the form of six to eight eager students.

The student athletic committee which, according to assistant athletic director Marlene Ford's guess, has been around for 15-20 years, if not more, is a group of students brought together to help out by refereeing, time-keeping and setting up intramural games.

Ford said the one-year, paid positions are open to full-time students at Conestoga and require minimal time while benefiting the

students with some extra spending money.

"It's not like we're asking students for 20 hours a week," said Ford. "It could be about as low as three to four hours a week, over the course of which, a student gets \$300. It makes for some good extra money."

The committee has some requirements for applicants.

"You should have leadership skills," said Ford. "Self-motivation is also a key because these people sometimes have to do their jobs by themselves."

In the end, however, Ford says it's all about returning the favour.

"It's a great way to give back to the college," she said.

Tony Lee
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Gellar and Phillippe shine in *Cruel Intentions*

By Eileen Diniz

In the game of seduction, there is only one rule: never fall in love. The tagline for *Cruel Intentions* is right regarding this new teen flick.

Cruel Intentions is written and directed by Roger Kumble. The movie stars Sarah Michelle Gellar (*I Know What You Did Last Summer*) as Kathryn Merteuil-Valmont a seductive, evil, coke-sniffing bitch. Ryan Phillippe (*Playing by Heart*) plays Sabastion Valmont, Kathryn's cruel and ruthless stepbrother. Reese Witherspoon (*Pleasantville*) plays the smart and beautiful virgin Annette Hargrove. Selma Blair (star of Warner Brothers series *Zoe, Duncan, Jack, Jane*) plays Cecile Caldwell, the shy, naive, goofy pawn.

Cruel Intentions marks the fourth screen adaptation of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, the classic novel of sexual manipulation and romantic war games by Pierre Laclos which was published in

1782.

This smart, funny comedy/drama starts out with Kathryn (Gellar) and Sebastian (Phillippe), playing evil games of sexual manipulation on summer break. The two also have the hots for each other but so far have done nothing about it.

Kathryn has just been dumped by Court Reynolds for the innocent and irresistible Cecile (Blair). She is so desperate to get even she challenges her sexual predator stepbrother Sabastion to ruin Cecile and deliver her to Court as damaged goods. Sebastian is bored with the typical Manhattan debutantes like Cecile but agrees to the bet.

Sebastian decides he wants more of a challenge and sets his sights on the new headmaster's daughter Annette Hargrove

(Witherspoon). She just recently wrote a manifest in *Seventeen* magazine about how she intends to stay pure until she finds true love.

Sabastion bets Kathryn he can seduce Annette before school

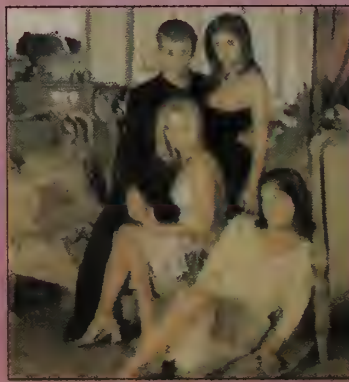
begins in the fall. Kathryn thinks his quest is impossible but quickly agrees anyway. The stakes, if she wins she gets his 1956 Jaguar Roadster, and if he wins he gets Kathryn.

Sabastion gets more than he bargained for when he goes after Annette and tries to sleep with her. She is smart and funny and throws comments right back at him. He cannot resist her and eventually falls in love. He is left with the decision to either deceive his first love and leave school a legend or ruin his reputation for love.

Sabastion is a different person with everyone he comes into contact with during the film. With Kathryn he is arrogant and wicked, with Cecile he is sexy and charming and with Annette he is a warm and caring.

Kathryn has a cold veneer and she hides her emotions well. She uses her body sexually to get what she wants because she feels that is all she has to offer.

The movie is definitely a stand-out among the other teen films



Sabastion Valmont (Ryan Phillippe), Kathryn Merteuil-Valmont (Sarah Michelle Gellar), Annette Hargrove (Reese Witherspoon) and Cecile Caldwell (Selma Blair) in the latest teen flick, *Cruel Intentions*. (internet photo)

today. Kumble's modern day idea of a high school setting works great because people at this age are very vicious.

The performances are strong and stunning. Phillippe is charming and convincing as Valmont. Gellar is a qualified actress and

delivers Kathryn with the greatest perfection. They are definitely two of the most talented young actors today. Witherspoon does a nice performance as the strong and clever Annette and Blair deserves as much credit as Gellar and Phillippe for her part as the goofy, innocent Cecile.

The film takes place in modern day New York and deals with the two step-siblings conspiring in a tale of seduction, betrayal, lost innocence and manipulation. It is about getting what you want in life by using and abusing others. It deals with the complexities that relationships involve and how you have to learn to work within their confines. The film also maintains some sexual humour that eases the serious tones of the film.

Cruel Intentions opened Friday, March 5 and is rated AA. It is playing at Fairway Cinema in Kitchener, Cineplex Odeon at Stone Road Mall in Guelph and the Cambridge Centre Cinema.

1 2 3 4 5

Cage plummets into darkness in *8mm*



(Internet photo)

By Ken Groulx

Screenwriter Andrew Kevin Walker, who authored 1996's unsettling *Seven*, again delves into seedy underworlds and taps into dark, nasty parts of the human psyche in director Joel Schumacher's daring new film, *8mm*.

Exploring the secret society of the underground hardcore porn industry, *8mm* is ripe with corrupted morality, sexual perversion and voyeurism. It defies mainstream convention and definitely won't appeal to all tastes given its disturbing subject matter, but *8mm* succeeds as an tense, uncompromising thriller that will stay with you for some time after you've left the theatre.

The plot unfolds as Tom Welles, (Nicolas Cage) a discretionary private investigator, is hired by a rich, elderly widow to investigate

expose the filmmakers.

Guided by Max, (Joaquin Phoenix) a smart sex-shop clerk, Welles travels through the dark underbelly of flesh-peddling, violent S&M and other more sordid carnal fetishes. Welles' methodical and exhaustive search eventually becomes his obsession as he is drawn into a world that he discovers is both repulsive and intriguing. Consorting with depraved porn directors like Dino Velvet (Peter Stormare) and Eddie Poole (James Gandolfini), Welles exploration into this alien universe forces him to confront the integrity of his own moral fibre. It's an absorbing examination of a character's descent into a sick, unrepentant world, yet scriptwriter Walker avoids treading the moral high ground and allows the audience to make their own decisions about what they see.

While Schumacher has delivered some competent Hollywood fare in the past with films like *The Lost Boys*, he has also been

responsible for glossy, overblown schlock like the last two *Batman* movies. Taking a stylistic cue from the coarse visuals that typified *Seven*, Schumacher has ditched his customary polish and given *8mm* a similarly dim and grainy grey-blue hue that is reflective of the film's grimy subject matter.

Since *Leaving Las Vegas* netted him an Oscar nod, Cage has appeared in patchy films like *Con Air* and *City of Angels*, but he has redeemed himself as an actor of seemingly endless range. Gandolfini (*She's So Lovely*), Stormare (*Fargo*) are brilliantly loathsome as slimy

porn dealers, and Phoenix (*Return to Paradise*) gives the film an edgy, intelligent social commentator. He's one of film's rising talents.

Walker has a knack for escalating tension and the film's multiple climaxes give the film a near epic quality, but there are no happy endings in *8mm*. It is a bleak and unpleasant work that reveals some unsavory truths about voyeurism, lust and desire.

A warning from Max offers the notion, "You're going to see things you can't unsee;" *8mm* is true testament to that.

1 2 3 4 5

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Study Skills

Knowing how to study efficiently does not always come naturally. Students who want to learn and who are eager to do well in college do not always know what to do. Many students do not know how much to study or how to use their time wisely. They may not know how to read college-level textbooks. Absorbing and remembering information from lectures can be difficult, especially if they are not familiar with the lecture style of teaching.

Many potentially good students lack basic skills. They may not be able to read well enough for college-level material, or have vague notions about English grammar. Many students have difficulty writing their ideas clearly.

To meet these challenges, Student Services offers several study skill workshops to help students gain the skills they need to succeed. Good study habits allow us to work more efficiently. Students who have been taught study methods get better grades with fewer hours of study. It is not how much you study but how well.

- When should you seek help with study skills?
- When you feel overwhelmed.
- When you want to reduce your study time.
- When you feel disorganized.
- When too many distractions reduce your concentration.
- When you want to take better notes and read more effectively.
- When exams approach.
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